What is claimed is:

1	1. A method for handling digital messages, the method comprising the steps
2	of:
3	determining whether an email message meets a predefined condition; and
4	executing an action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to
5	determining that the email message meets the predefined condition.
1	2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether the emai
2	message meets a predefined condition comprises the step of extracting contact
3	information from the email message, the contact information being associated with a
4	sender of the email message.
1	The method of claim 2, wherein the step of executing the action in the IM
2	system comprises the steps of:
3	determining a presence of the sender using the extracted contact information, the
4	presence being indicative of whether the user is present online; and
5	initiating an IM chat session with the sender in response to determining that the
6	sender is present online.

I	4. A method for handling digital messages, the method comprising the steps
2	of:
3	providing a programming interface, the programming interface adapted to receive
4	user input, the user input being provided in a markup language; and
5 .	storing inputs provided by a user at the programming interface, the inputs being
6	provided in the markup language, the inputs comprising a condition, the inputs further
7	comprising an action.
1	5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2	receiving a digital message from a message sender;
3	determining whether the digital message meets the condition; and
4	executing the action in response to determining that the digital message meets the
5	condition.
1	6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining whether the digital
2	message meets the condition comprises the steps of:
3	determining whether the digital message includes a request for a file.
1	7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of executing the action comprises
2	the steps of:
3	determining whether the file is accessible;
4	retrieving the file in response to determining that the file is accessible; and
5	transmitting the file to the message sender in response to retrieving the file.

8. A method for handling digital messages, the method comprising the steps
of:
determining whether a digital message meets a predefined condition; and
executing a filtering algorithm on the digital message in response to determining
that the digital message does not meet the predefined condition.

1	9. The method of claim 8, wherein the predefined condition is selected from
2	the group consisting of:
3	the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a sender;
4	the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a primary recipient;
5	the digital message includes a specified Internet address of a secondary recipient;
6	the digital message includes a specified Internet domain;
7	the digital message includes a specified word in a subject line of the digital
8	message;
9.	the digital message includes a specified word in a text body of the digital message;
. 10	the digital message includes a specified hypertext markup language (HTML)stag
11	in the digital message;
12	the digital message includes a specified extensible markup language (XML) tag in
13	the digital message;
14	the digital message has an empty subject line;
15	the digital message has no content;
16	the digital message exceeds a specified size;
17	the digital message originated from a specified source Internet protocol (IP)
18	address; and
19	combinations thereof.

1	10. A computer-readable medium comprising:
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
3	whether an email message meets a predefined condition; and
4	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to execute an
5	action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to determining that the email
6	message meets the predefined condition.
1	11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising computer-
2	readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to extracting contact
3	information from the email message, the contact information being associated with a
4	sender of the email message.
1	12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine a
3	presence of the sender using the extracted contact information, the presence being
4	indicative of whether the user is present online; and
5	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to initiate an
6 `	IM chat session with the sender in response to determining that the sender is present
7	online.
1	13. A computer-readable medium comprising:
2 .	computer-readable code representing a condition, the condition being in a markup
3	language; and
4	computer-readable code representing an action, the action being in a markup
5	language.

•	14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising.
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive a
3	digital message from a message sender;
4	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
5	whether the digital message meets the condition; and
6	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to execute the
7	action in response to determining that the digital message meets the condition.
1	15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
3	whether the digital message includes a request for a file.
1	16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
3	whether the file is accessible;
4	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to retrieve the
5	file in response to determining that the file is accessible; and
6	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to transmit the
7	file to the message sender in response to retrieving the file.

1	17. A computer-readable medium comprising:
2	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine
3	whether a digital message meets a predefined condition; and
4	computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to execute a
5	filtering algorithm on the digital message in response to determining that the digital
6	message does not meet the predefined condition.
1	18. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	means for determining whether an email message meets a predefined condition;
3	and
4	means for executing an action in an instant messaging (IM) system in response to
5	determining that the email message meets the predefined condition.
1	19. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether an email message
3	meets a predefined condition; and
4	command execution logic adapted to execute an action in an instant messaging
5	(IM) system in response to determining that the email message meets the predefined
6	condition.
1	20. The system of claim 19, further comprising information-extraction logic
2	adapted to extract contact information from the email message, the contact information
3	being associated with a sender of the email message.

Ι.	21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:
2	presence-determination logic adapted to determine a presence of the sender using
3	the extracted contact information, the presence being indicative of whether the user is
4	present online; and
5	IM-chat-initiation logic adapted to initiate an IM chat session with the sender in
6	response to determining that the sender is present online.
1 -	22. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	program-interface logic configured to provide a programming interface, the
3	programming interface adapted to receive user input, the user input being provided in a
4	markup language; and
5	input-storage logic configured to store inputs provided by a user at the
6	programming interface, the inputs being provided in the markup language, the inputs
7	comprising a condition, the inputs further comprising an action.
1	23. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	means for providing a programming interface, the programming interface adapted
3	to receive user input, the user input being provided in a markup language; and
4	means for storing inputs provided by a user at the programming interface, the
5	inputs being provided in the markup language, the inputs comprising a condition, the
6	innuts further comprising an action

l	24. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	means for determining whether a digital message meets a predefined condition;
3	and
4	means for executing a filtering algorithm on the digital message in response to
5	determining that the digital message does not meet the predefined condition.
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1	25. A system for handling digital messages, the system comprising:
2	condition-determination logic adapted to determine whether a digital message
3	meets a predefined condition; and
4	command execution logic adapted to execute a filtering algorithm on the digital
5	message in response to determining that the digital message does not meet the predefined
6	condition.